

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 8

From: Staff

Date: September 21, 2012 Council Meeting

Subject: "All Aboard Florida" Passenger Rail Proposal Update - Presentation by Jose Gonzalez, Vice President, Flagler Development

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the "All Aboard Florida" passenger rail proposal currently being developed by Flagler Development/Florida East Coast Industries (Flagler). The proposal represents a private initiative to introduce intercity passenger rail service between Southeast Florida and Central Florida with four stations: downtown Miami, downtown Fort Lauderdale, downtown West Palm Beach, and Orlando. The proposal also includes a potential connection to the SunRail commuter rail system that is currently under construction. Flagler has suggested that ultimately the service could be extended to provide service to Tampa and Jacksonville.

According to discussions with representatives of Flagler, the company has determined the project appears to be financially feasible. Accordingly, Flagler is currently advancing plans for preliminary engineering and station locations. Additional evaluation is also underway regarding ridership, project costs, financing, and related issues. The company has noted the "All Aboard Florida" service would not conflict with any currently proposed passenger rail initiatives on the corridor, including the proposed Amtrak/FEC Corridor service as well as future commuter rail service from Palm Beach to Miami-Dade county.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.